

RECREATION AND PARKS

Within the study area, there is much open space land but no active recreational facilities. A recreational facility is a place designed and equipped for the conduct of sports, leisure time activities and other customary and usual recreational activities. The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains that because the population in the study area is relatively small (1,790 residents as of the 1990 census), the recreational needs of the area are comparatively small. Based on today's recreational facility planning standards, one of each of the following would meet or exceed the recreational needs of the area based on 1990 census data: ball diamonds, athletic fields, tennis courts, and multi-purpose courts. Additional residential growth would, of course, increase the need for parkland and recreational facilities within the area. With the imminent construction of several residential development projects, it will become increasingly necessary to provide facilities for local residents as well as newcomers.

Half of the 20± acre Vincent Farm Elementary School site is presently owned by the Department of Recreation and Parks. The site, which is leased to a farmer, was once considered for ball diamond and athletic field development, but the irregular shape and physical limitations precluded such development.

Several residents are interested in the creation of a stream valley park. It is felt that such a park could accomplish two objectives simultaneously, protect part of the stream valley from development, and provide an opportunity for passive recreational activities such as hiking and bicycle riding. During one of the advisory group meetings it was suggested that developers wishing to develop residential or nonresidential facilities in the study area be required to contribute land and funds that would facilitate the creation of such a park.

Recommendations

Create baseball and soccer fields on the Vincent Farm Elementary School site.

Incorporate Windlass Run into the County's Greenways program and amend the official Greenways Map to reflect this designation.

Explore incentives that encourage developers of residential and nonresidential projects in the study area to contribute funds or land for the creation of a Windlass Run stream valley park.

Consider acquiring additional suitable land adjacent to the Vincent Elementary School Recreation Center site in order to make the site more conducive to the development of recreational facilities.

As the area grows and is developed, ensure that sufficient and diverse recreational opportunities are provided in the form of parks, open space areas, greenways and recreational facilities.